26 Feb 1999

Eric - I thought you'd like to see this lovely e-mail. It's good that there are such nice people in the world

JMK

Author: MIME:thejohn@qtm.net at INTERNET
Date: 2/22/99 7:59 PM
Priority: Normal
To: John Kleeberg
Subject: COAC LC Book (your kind & generous offer)

Hi John ....

I've been electronically out of touch while my brainbox underwent a lobotomy -- from which it still failed to recover. Anyway, it's buried & now replaced & I seem to be communicationally alive & well again.

Thanks for your kind note & your offer of one of your copies of the COAC LC books for the EAC Library. If it's not too late, YES!! PLEASE!! You know as well as I do what great stuff is in there & that some of our members will DEFINITELY be wanting to borrow this from time to time.

Kleeberg to EPN

On the Mario Byrge thing ... that's curiouser & curiouser (to quote Alice). I had his coin a long time, told him it'd be a long time, & he never bugged me about it. Then in late December I returned his coin with all documentation, pictures, & a nice letter, all in a Registered envelope. Several weeks later it came back, unclaimed. I have no phone # for him and the address I have is 688 Kimberly, Apt 202, Lake Orion MI 48362. Do you have any other contact for him? I'm sitting here with his package and no way to get it to him and no contact from him.

On the thing of one person sending very good alterations to different experts hoping they're a 'new variety' .....

... no accusations, but it sounds suspiciously like a fishing expedition. (well, Kleeberg didn't bite; let's troll a line past Grellman & Wright)

Smith of Ann Alterations

Might it be possible that these alterations come from a common source?

As for the 1804 possibly being a Smith ... no, from the evidence we have that wasn't his thing. He made 1793's -- complete -- from worn early cents. He made the complete design from nothing (occasionally even starting off with a 1793 -- I've seen one chain with a completely rebuilt obverse that looks VERY Smithlike). A simple date-alteration (even a good one) isn't what the 'Smith counterfeits' are about.

I'm tickled that you're enjoying the old Penny-Wises. There's a goldmine of information and entertainment in them. The Society is supposed to have been getting P-W from the get-go, but I don't know whether you've been careful to file them & keep the run intact. If you'd like to check the ANS Library's holdings, we'll be happy to fill in copies or originals as we have for whatever might be lacking. Another great reference-form is Jon Lusk's PWRL (Penny-Wise Reference Library) on CD-Rom. It's much quicker to find a reference or a group of references, but staring at a screen just isn't the same as holding paper.

Thanks again for everything, & do keep me up on how we can help each other along.

Your friend .... John Wright
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